



LUIS G. FORTUÑO

RESIDENT COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE NEWSLETTER



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Multi million dollar grant for special projects

\$43.2 million will be assigned to Puerto Rico this year

The U.S. House of Representatives approved federal grants totaling \$47.5 million for special projects in Puerto Rico, announced the Resident Commissioner. The funds are part of a giant budget request that Congress considered for fiscal year 2008. [Need to rewrite this sentence.] The grant is more than twice as large as the \$18 million grant for special projects approved for Puerto Rico in 2006.

"This is a great achievement for Puerto Rico, especially for the mayors, who have worked closely with me to promote these initiatives which will benefit the entire island," said a happy Luis Fortuño. The most important aspect of this legislation is that it includes money for projects throughout the entire island, thus improving Puerto's Rico economy and the quality of life of its residents. Among the most prominent projects included in the legislation are:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

- \$35 million to construct the Portugués and Bucaná Dam in Ponce;



- ✓ \$11.5 million to continue the canalization of the Puerto Nuevo River in San Juan;
- ✓ \$100,000 to relocate 47 families in Yauco, who are presently living in areas prone to landslides;
- ✓ \$100,000 to construct roads in Corozal;
- ✓ \$100,000 to construct a Walkway in Salinas; and
- ✓ \$100,000 to construct a Recreational and Cultural Center in Gurabo.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

- ✓ \$121,000 to acquire medical equipment for the Quebrada Health Center in Camuy; and
- ✓ \$219,000 to establish an Autism Center to serve the autistic population in the southern region.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- ✓ \$352,000 to acquire equipment for the Municipal Police Departments in Arroyo, Luquillo, Manatí and Río Grande, as well as to establish an interoperation

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Federal Government injects \$100 million to boost Island economy

This year, Puerto Ricans will receive much needed economic relief when the U.S. Federal government distributes close to \$1 billion, as part of an economic stimulus package that will benefit the 50 states and its territories. The Resident Commissioner worked closely with Congressman José Serrano to include the Island in the legislation establishing the program.

The purpose of the federal package is to put money in the pockets of consumers in order to reactivate the national economy, which is suffering a slow-down after

many years of robust growth. For the residents of Puerto Rico, the multi-million dollar injection of funds comes at a moment when taxpayers are suffering the impact of triple digit increases in the cost of utilities and many basic goods, including food.

The funds will be distributed as rebates, or checks, and will be available to individuals and married couples who filed a 2006 tax return in 2007 and have a valid social security number. According to U.S. federal law, the funds will be distributed through Hacienda. The

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